## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

DARYL L. OSBY FIRE CHIEF FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

August 13, 2014

TO:

FROM:

DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

CONTRACT AIR PROGRAM

On July 19, 2011, your Honorable Board approved a lease agreement with the Government of Quebec to lease SuperScoopers, with an annual spending authority of \$2.75 million. Also, on July 16, 2013, your Board approved a lease agreement with Erickson Air-Crane, Inc., to lease a helitanker, with an annual spending authority of \$3.3 million. Both lease agreements enhance the District's ability to provide fire suppression services during the annual brush fire season.

Between December 19, 2013 and March 28, 2014, the District provided several notifications to your Board that these lease agreements would be extended due to the lack of rainfall and the continued dry weather conditions. However, these notifications inadvertently did not address the financial impact of the extensions. Therefore, this serves as formal notification that the District exceeded the 2013-14 spending authority by approximately \$2.7 million for the SuperScoopers and by approximately \$383,000 for the helitanker. The 2011-12 spending authority for the helitanker was also exceeded by approximately \$6,000. To minimize the risk of exceeding the spending authority in the future, we will request a higher spending authority and will ensure future communications regarding the extension of these lease agreements include any fiscal impact.

The District will be addressing this issue with the Retroactive Contract Review Committee for disposition and approval of the corrective actions the District has taken. The District will then return to your Board by September 30, 2014, to request a higher spending authority.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 881-6180, or your staff may contact Dawnna Lawrence, Deputy Chief, at (323) 881-2426.

## DLO:trb

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